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and concepts, it reflects the increasing professionalization of trauma studies as a discipline. The approach is substantive and scholarly but accessible to students and the informed lay reader. Many academic libraries will be tempted to place this single-volume reference in their circulating collections. (This title is also available online via **SAGE Knowledge**.)

Global Social Issues: An Encyclopedia (2012, 978-0-7656-8292-5, \$349) from **Sharpe Reference** deals with a much broader topic and is intended for a broader audience than **SAGE's Encyclopedia of Trauma**. Edited by veteran encyclopedia editor **James Climent** and **Christopher G. Bates** of **California State Polytechnic Institute at Pomona**, this three-volume set contains 136 individual chapters discussing specific global issues that would be of interest to upper division high school students, undergraduates, and the interested lay reader.

Almost every chapter provides a section on historical background while at the same time trying to place a geographic perspective on the issue by noting its importance and impacts in a variety of countries and regions. In addition, the current and future status of the issue is given a solid airing. Generally, two primary source documents, or excerpts from the document, are provided for each issue — one historic, the other contemporary. While sticking to a general formula there is no exact template employed for these chapters. As a result, some chapters offer more comprehensive treatments. However, each one fulfills its mission by providing a solid foundation for further exploration. Value-added features include a topic finder divided by broad categories, lists of further readings for each chapter, and a general index.

Global Social Issues: An Encyclopedia is the type of reference work that students will naturally turn to in order to locate background information on a topic. Each chapter provides a straightforward treatment that places the issue in historic context while keeping a focus on current status and recent developments. In addition, each chapter offers solid leads to books, journal articles, and Web resources useful in furthering a student's research. Libraries serving undergraduates and high school students with assignments on global issues will find this set worth considering.

(It is also available on **Sharpe Online Reference**.)

The African American Electorate; a Statistical History (2012, 978-0872895089, \$350) is a two-volume set from **CQ Press** that claims to be a "pioneering study" offering "the first systematic and comprehensive longitudinal analysis of the African American electorate in America." As one examines the highly detailed table of contents, it becomes obvious that this set will live up to its promise. This reference is a treasure trove of statistical information

against the grain publisher profile

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and narrative explanation uniquely focused on the evolving story of African American suffrage rights.

Utilizing a chronological approach, **African American Electorate** traces this compelling story from the electoral participation of "Free-Women-and-Men-of-Color in Colonial America to their electoral disenfranchisement in the same era and into subsequent eras," followed by the slow but determined march toward voting rights and full enfranchisement after the Civil War. Interspersed throughout are literally hundreds of statistical tables and charts as well as numerous maps that help bring the narrative to life.

Given the wealth of information contained in these two volumes, a reader-friendly arrangement along with helpful finding aids is vital. Fortunately, attention has been paid to these concerns. The detailed table of contents referenced earlier is present in both volumes,

and investing time examining it gives the researcher a solid grasp of the scope and comprehensiveness of the coverage. A general index appears in both volumes and points to useful narrative information as well as specific tables, maps, and figures. Quotations and data appear throughout, each chapter has a comprehensive list of reference notes, and there is a bibliography of all of the copyrighted sources referenced at the end of Volume Two. There is also a cumulative bibliography that includes key data sources, government documents, primary sources, periodical articles, and online works that will prove of particular value to scholars doing extensive research in this area.

African American Electorate; a Statistical History is an impressive work of scholarship on a very significant topic. Serious students of African American electoral history will find it an essential title. In fact, any student interested

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